Message Text

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FOR NEA/EGY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, BTRA, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN DISCUSSES POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY MRS SADAT

1. EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN ATEF GAMAL EL DIN, WHO IS SECGEN OF AMERICAN-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HOUSTON, CALLED ON AMB MAY 4 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY MRS SADAT. GAMAL EL DIN CLAIMS THAT DURING OFFICIAL VISIT OF SADATS TO US IN APRIL, MRS SADAT DISCUSSED WITH GAMAL EL DIN AND HIS WIFE THE QUESTION OF A PRIVATE SUBSEQUENT VISIT FOR HERSELF, CONCENTRATING ON MID-WESTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES. ACCORDING GAMAL EL DIN MANY WOMEN'S GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING MRS SADAT AS GUEST OR PARTICIPATING IN SPONSORSHIP OF HER VISIT. HE SOUGHT VIEWS OF AMB ON "WHERE WHEN AND HOW" OF THE VISIT.

2. AMB REPLIED THAT THE WHERE AND WHEN WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ENTIRELY UP TO MRS SADAT AND THE SPONSORS OF HER US TOUR TO ARRANGE. EMBASSY WAS NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT ON MATTER. WITH RESPECT TO "HOW", IF GAMAL EL DIN WAS SUGGESTING USG FINANCING OF VISIT, AMB VIEWD THIS AS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. HOWEVER, IF MRS SADAT SHOULD DECIDE TO MAKE A US TOUR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVEN IN A PURELY PRIVATE CAPACITY. USG WOULD PROBABLY BE INVOLVED TO THE EXTENT OF ASSISTING IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER SECURITY IN THIS LIMITED CONTEXT, AMB SUGGESTED THAT GAMAL EL DIN WOULD DO WELL TO CONTACT NEWBERRY OF NEA/EGY AND ASSISTANT SEC ATHERTON ABOUT PLANS FOR VISIT. NEA/EGY AND ASSISTANT SECY'S OFFICE MAY THEREFORE EXPECT TO HEAR FROM GAMAL EL DIN ABOUT THIS MATTER WHEN HE RETURNS TO US (TIME

OF HIS RETURN UNCERTAIN).

3. GAMAL EL DIN ALSO COMPLAINED THAT HIS GROUP, THE AMERICAN-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HOUSTON, WAS SOMETIMES IGNORED IN PLANNING FOR USG-SPONSORED VISITS OF PROMINENT ARAB PERSONALITIES TO TEXAX. HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF HIS GROUP TO PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN SUCH VISITS. AMB NOTED THAT VISITS OF PROMIENT PERSONALITIES TO US WERE MOST OFTEN SPONSORED BY CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF DEPT AND SUGGESTED THAT GAMAL EL DIN SPEAK WITH NEWBERRY ABOUT INDIVIDUALS IN CU WHO COULD USEFULLY BE MADE AWARE OF ROLE ARAB-AMERICAN GROUP IN HOUSTON WAS PREPARED TO PLAY.

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